

**COMMENTS FROM COMMUNITY KEY SERVICES DIALOGUE
OCTOBER 21, 2009 – CLEMENTS CENTER**

What do you like best about Tucson? What would you most like to see improved about Tucson?

LIKES

- Adapts to many changes
- Authentic
- Availability of things to do, see
- Called a “City” not really a “Town”
- Casual lifestyle – clothing
- Centrally located, easy traveling from one place to another
- Changes grows – intellectually
- Churches
- Cost of living
- Dependable bus service
- Ditto
- Ethnic groups live together
- Friendly City
- Generous Community
- Library
- Liked in early 1970’s
- Lots of activities for seniors
- Nanny State
- Not too many freeways
- Old West attitude
- Open green spaces
- Parks
- People
- People are accepted
- Progress overtime
- Routes for students if on main thoroughfare
- San Xavier
- Small town attitude
- Spirit of Community Service
- Sunshine
- Tolerance
- Trash and recycling service
- University
- Weather
- What’s left of desert
- Winter season

IMPROVEMENTS

- Affordable housing and cleanliness for seniors
- Access ability to community centers especially in terms of hours
- Better enforcement of City codes especially residential mess
- Better enforcement of speeding
- Better oversight of City budget
- Better public transportation and safer
- Business taxes are too high
- City is “dirty”
- Community Centers should be available when community needs it otherwise call it a City building
- Education
- Fill holes
- Get rid of traffic cameras
- Get seniors more engaged
- Graffiti
- Irvington – Valencia on South Campbell
- Job opportunities
- Keep young people here
- Less government
- Loose end stray dogs
- Lower taxes and fewer regulations
- Main reason here tonight
- Make it safer like it used to be
- More law enforcement
- More programs for kids
- More public lighting
- Need to address poverty better
- Neighbors shouldn't have to put up with ignorance of dog barking, junk cars, trash
- Police response
- Potholes
- Poverty is concentrated - “where poverty is – is where affordable housing can be found”
- Property taxes too high
- Regulations and taxes should not affect
- Regulations are adversely affecting seniors
- Roads/Transportation
- Sales tax at threshold
- Schools
- Stick to basics
- Transient problems
- Trash on streets
- Use of solar energy
- Wages

What services would you like to maintain or cut? Why?

MAINTAIN

- All Parks and Recreation services for youth particularly
- Bus service Neighborhood Centers OPEN for COMMUNITY
- Focus on environments, e.g. buffel grass, at lesser degree
- More volunteers to help Police/Fire
- 1% programs
- Streets/transportation – more
- Trash cleanup in public right of way
- Weeds

CUT

- All neighborhood resources overlaps other services – “just refer you to Ward offices”
- DNR
- Economic and workforce development - DT Business Improvement District – “so what?” – let economics work it out! (Table participants not sure what they do)
- Little bit from everything, except those with 1% or less
- Over refrigeration of public buildings
- Parks and Recreation, but not children’s programs
- Parks and Recreation – reduce total services that other organizations may provide – volunteers, nonprofits, etc...
- Spring training, it’s going away anyway
- Teen recreation programs – parents should raise their children; pay for sports

What new resources, revenues or efficiencies should be pursued? Explain.

- Beef up enforcement codes
- Better communication - in depth and substantive
- Bring kids out to do community service (those in juvenile system) and those in school
- Building of hotel not a good idea for how City funds are spent with borrowed money
- City needs to better explain what it takes for what people really want
- Compact fluorescent bulbs for all City buildings
- Consolidate County/City government
- Cut Access Tucson
- Cut machine street cleaners but keep picking up trash in row
- Eliminate grass in cemeteries
- Encourage tourism to create revenue – don’t like bed tax
- Fine people who don’t keep up property in timely fashion, collect money

- Forget about Rio Nuevo – would solve budget problem right there
- Get rid of grass/keep trees
- Give out more speeding tickets
- Hire in City consultants/use employees as consultants
- Hire new employees that cost less/reduce their benefits
- If raising fees, make on a sliding scale
- If you work in City, pay 1% employment tax
- Instead of big fire truck – different response to illness, request for support
- Involve youth with opportunities to improve job ethics
- Likelihood of property tax is low
- Loose dogs and cats finer – new revenue source
- More self sufficient programs – any services
- Need programs to help keep kids busy/involved
- New incentives to attract outside businesses
- People not in City should help fund more
- People who live outside City but come into City need to pay some kind of tax
- Philanthropic pool of capital to be loaned
- Raise all fees
- Raise tax on alcohol/tobacco
- Reduce benefits to prisoners (cable, medical, 3 meals a day, keep busy with work and job skills, on the job training)
- Spending lots of money on free services, cost recovery
- Tax the swap meet
- Those that make more money should step up to the plate
- Turn down air conditioning
- Use inmates for street maintenance/increase their use/also for parks maintenance
- Use non-felons for community service projects
- Volunteers – use more, train effectively
- Youth assigned to City departments for internships – good job training also helps with shortage and cleaning streets

What services should we invest in for our community's future?

- Assist local businesses
- Better media coverage for community and good programs
- Better schools
- Change income limits to reach more youth
- City Council learn from Marana, other cities that have had successes, overcome obstacles
- Dropout prevention critical and efforts – “if they dropout it destroys our community”
- Economic Survival
- Education and job training
- Education – more vocational

- Enforce codes regarding yards
- Environment – general appearance buffel grass and graffiti
- Expand and improve public transportation or we will be an aging community – also traffic is bad
- Focus and invest in youth – expand
- Improve substandard housing
- Job training and retraining
- Littering needs to be emphasized bad
- Look within Tucson for ideas, evaluation ex-hiring Police Chief
- Lower business taxes
- Maintenance should be an active enforcement – not complaint driven
- More trees! They are dying in drought and we are not taking care of them
- Must keep current businesses here and happy so we don't lose them
- Need to keep housing from aging into dirt
- Network and implement ideas that have worked for others
- No Urban Planning
- Not just better but just good ones – “High Schools are illiterate”
- Promote and support local cultural events for money and attendance
- Retain military – DMAFB
- Roads – upkeep and extension
- School system
- Solar
- Solar technology/sustainability (would create new jobs)
- Spruce up and clean up – need campaign like the “Keep the Washes Clean”
- Take care of our youth
- Transportation – roads, buses and light rail
- Urban Planning
- Volunteer in our community
- Youth work program